

3.2.2 Motion with non-uniform acceleration

Learning outcomes	Additional guidance
<i>Learners should be able to demonstrate and apply their knowledge and understanding of:</i>	
(a) drag as the frictional force experienced by an object travelling through a fluid	
(b) factors affecting drag for an object travelling through air	HSW6
(c) motion of objects falling in a uniform gravitational field in the presence of drag	HSW9
(d) (i) terminal velocity	HSW1, 5
(ii) techniques and procedures used to determine terminal velocity in fluids.	PAG1 e.g. ball-bearing in a viscous liquid or cones in air. HSW4 Investigating factors affecting terminal velocity.

- (6) **M** - Define drag and state the factors that affect it.
 (7) **S** - Describe the motion of an object falling in the presence of drag
 (8) **C** - Understand techniques and procedures used to determine terminal velocity.

Lesson 3. Drag and terminal velocity

STARTER: Describe the drag force acting on this falcon. State factors affect it magnitude.



Extension: What is terminal velocity? How is it achieved?

Activity: Read 54: Add to your notes about drag. Key questions:

1. Meaning of a fluid?
2. Relationship between speed and drag? / graph to show this

The drag force can be calculated using the following equation:

$$F = \frac{1}{2} \rho C_d A v^2$$

F = drag force

ρ = density of air (or liquid)

C_d = drag coefficient

A = front cross-sectional area

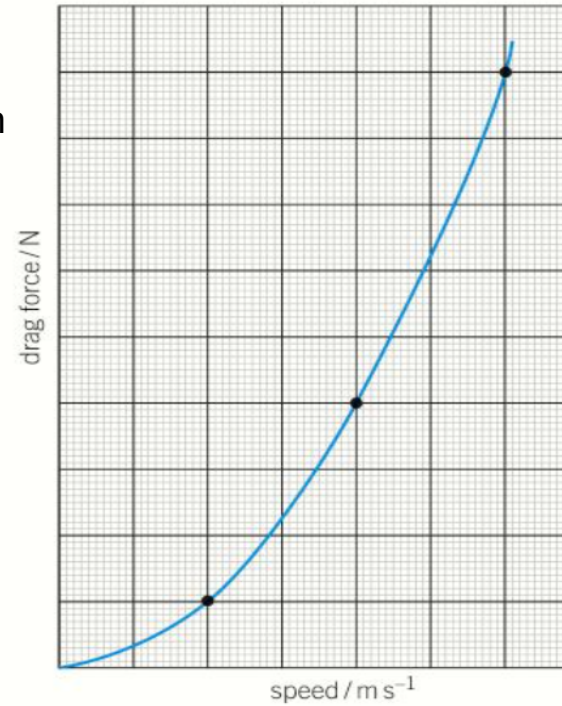
v = velocity

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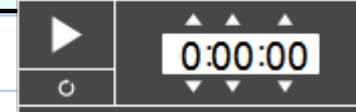
Lesson 3. Drag and terminal velocity

What is the relationship between speed and drag?

Show your answer mathematically



- (6) M - Define drag and state the factors that affect it.
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$a = 9.81$

Activity: Explain / sequence why an object dropped from rest first accelerates then reaches terminal velocity



First accelerates because weight greater than drag (drag = 0)
RF non-zero

(acceleration decreases) because drag increase with speed.
RF decreases

Speed increases until drag = weight
RF = 0

Acceleration = 0 as **resultant force = zero.**
Therefore constant speed (terminal velocity)

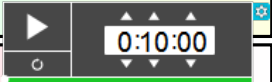
Ex: Explain the effect on the magnitude of the terminal velocity by increasing the mass of the falcon.



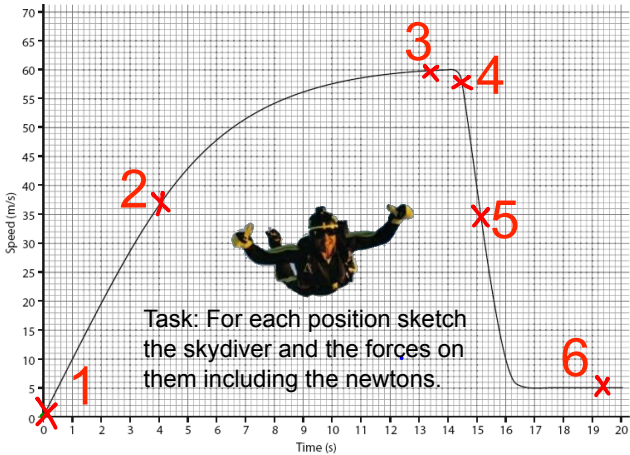
- (6) M - Define draw and state the factors that affect it.
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ACTIVITY: Use the graph of the skydiver to complete the sheet to find: Velocity, acceleration, weight, drag and resultant force,

The skydiver weight is 60kg



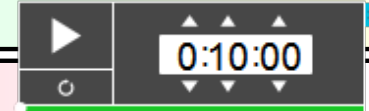
- Kilo 10³ Hint: Find weight using $W=mg$
- Mega 10⁶ Compare qualitatively the **change in drag** from 2 to 3, to the **change in Speed** in the same period.
- Giga 10⁹



	Velocity (from graph)	Diagram (draw weight and drag forces including magnitudes)	Resultant force	Acceleration.
1. Start of jump (free- fall)				
2. accelerating				
3. Terminal Velocity				
4. Parachute starts to open				
5. decelerating				
6. Terminal Velocity				

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ACTIVITY: In pencil, sketch a graph of forces acting against time on the skydiver, for the whole 20 seconds
Consider: Weight, Drag and Resultant force



Kilo 10^3 Assume down is positive

Mega 10^6

Giga 10^9

Compare qualitatively the **change in drag** from 2 to 3, to the **change in Speed** in the same period.

Force

time

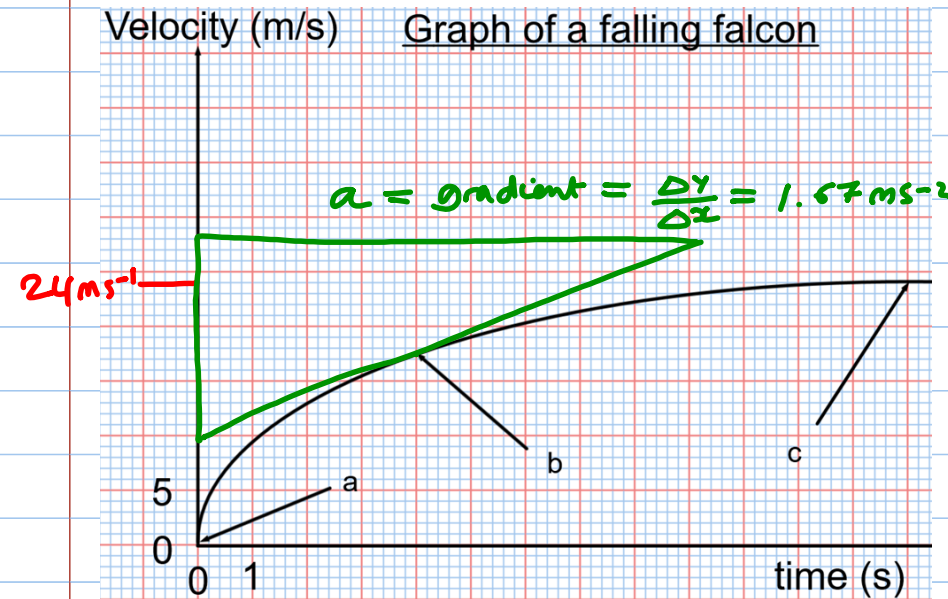
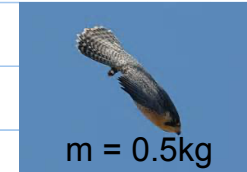


- (6) M - Define draw and state the factors that affect it.
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Lesson 3. Drag and terminal velocity

video

Activity: Complete the activity sheet of a falling falcon



Q2. Sketch a free body force diagram for the falcon in position a b and c.

a	b	c
<p>zero drag.</p>		

Q3. Find the acceleration of the falcon at b.

$$1.67 \text{ ms}^{-2}$$

Q4. Calculate the drag force on the falcon at b. Add this drag value to your diagram.

$$(R.F) F = ma = 0.5 \times 1.67$$